

STATEMENT UNDER ARTICLE 19 (1)

Responsive to the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority mailed December 16, 2005 in the above-identified International Application, application claims 1-3, 17 and 25 have been amended. Replacement sheets containing the amended claims are enclosed herewith.

The changes in claim 1 involve describing each of the foot, ankle and shank of the prosthesis as "resilient" and changing the method step of "expanding at least one sagittal plane concavity" to --expanding at least two sagittal plane concavities--.

In claim 2, the "foot" is now described as "resilient".

In claim 3, the "shank" is now the "resilient shank".

In claim 17, the "foot" is now described as "extending in a longitudinal direction"; the ankle is now described as "resilient"; and the following clause has been added:

--wherein the ankle and shank are formed as a resilient member, the shank extending upward in a substantially curvilinear manner above the ankle and flexing in the longitudinal direction during gait for storing and releasing energy to improve dynamic response of the prosthesis in gait;--.

Claim 25 has been amended to avoid restating the resilient member limitation added to claim 17.

In summary:

- (1) Claims 1-3, 17 and 25 are amended;
- (2) Claims 4-16, 18-24, 26-30 are unchanged.

The amendments to the claims patentably distinguish the claimed invention over U.S. Patent Application Publications No. US 2002/0087216 A1 to Atkinson which merely discloses a prosthetic walking system having an ankle with an interconnecting portion which is selectively weakened or flexible between relatively stiff/rigid generally horizontally extending legs of the ankle for flexing within the interconnecting portion, 32/132/232/332/432/532/732, about an axis, 34/134/234/334/434/534/734, that lies in the medial/lateral plane. The limit belt assembly 785 with resilient belt 786 and the limit stage assembly 485 with resilient cord 486 limit the flexing of the upper and lower legs of the ankle away from one another past a low load (e.g. parallel) position as explained with respect to strap 36 and Figs. 5A-6C at col. 7, paragraph [0068]. Atkinson has no substantially curvilinear, resilient shank which flexes in the longitudinal direction that, together with an artificial muscle, aids propulsion of the person's trailing limb and body, and Atkinson does not expand at least two sagittal plane concavities to store energy, as in applicants' claimed invention.

Respectfully submitted,

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